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Dated: June 13, 2007

Signature: 

(Lorraine Davidoff)

Docket No.: 61135/P004CP1CP1C1/10106025
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Salim G. Kara

Application No.: 09/491,949

Confirmation No.: 9277

Filed: January 26, 2000

Art Unit: 3628

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRINTING
MULTIPLE POSTAGE INDICIA

Examiner: Thomas A. Dixon

APPEAL BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

As required under § 41.37(a), this brief is filed more than two months after the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on February 27, 2007, and is in furtherance of said Notice of Appeal. This Appeal is filed after the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated May 14, 2007.

The fees required under § 41.20(b)(2) will be dealt with online by credit card.

This brief contains items under the following headings as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 and M.P.E.P. § 1205.2:

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal is:

Stamps.com Inc.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. Total Number of Claims in Application

There are 17 claims pending in application.

B. Current Status of Claims

1. Claims canceled: 8, 12, and 20-36
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: none
3. Claims pending: 1-7, 9-11, and 13-19
4. Claims allowed: none
5. Claims rejected: 1-7, 9-11, and 13-19

C. Claims On Appeal

The claims on appeal are claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13-19

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Applicant did not file an Amendment after the latest rejection, that being the Non-Final Rejection mailed November 27, 2006.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

According to claim 1, a system for printing postage comprises a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon (page 5, lines 7-10 and figure 1A); a general purpose printer coupled to the general purpose processor based system (figure 1A); a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon (page 5, lines 24-28, page 35 lines 13-15, and figure 16A), wherein the postage printing application controls the general purpose processor based system and the general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on the sheet (page 6, lines 4-6, page 35, lines 13-19, and figure 21); and a postage storage device coupled to the general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein (page 15, lines 1-2), wherein the general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from the postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamps (page 29, lines 5-14), wherein the postage storage device comprises an expansion card coupled to a host processor based system (figure 1A and 1B).

According to claim 7, a system for printing postage comprises a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon (page 5, lines 7-10 and figure 1A); a general purpose printer coupled to the general purpose processor based system (figure 1A); and a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon (page 5, lines 24-28, page 35 lines 13-15, and figure 16A), wherein the postage printing application controls the general purpose processor based system and the general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on the sheet (page 6, lines 4-6, page 35, lines 13-19, and figure 21), wherein a first postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a first transfer section of the plurality of transfer sections and a second postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a second transfer section of the plurality of transfer sections (page 6, lines 4-6, page 35, lines 13-19, and figure 21), wherein at least one of the postage meter stamps includes an expiration date of a postage storage device (page 34, lines 23-24).

According to claim 11, a system for printing postage comprises a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon (page 5, lines 7-10 and figure 1A); a general purpose printer coupled to the general purpose processor based system (figure 1A); a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon

(page 5, lines 24-28, page 35 lines 13-15, and figure 16A), wherein the postage printing application controls the general purpose processor based system and the general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on the sheet (page 29, lines 5-14), and a postage storage device coupled to the general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein (page 14, line 29 – page 15 line 2, and figures 1A and 1B), wherein the general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from the postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamps (page 29, lines 5-14), wherein the postage storage device comprises a touch memory utility button (figure 1B and page 15, lines 14-18).

According to claim 14, a system for printing postage comprises a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon (page 5, lines 7-10 and figure 1A); a general purpose printer coupled to the general purpose processor based system (figure 1A); a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon (page 5, lines 24-28, page 35 lines 13-15, and figure 16A), wherein the postage printing application controls the general purpose processor based system and the general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on the sheet (page 29, lines 5-14); and a postage storage device coupled to the general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein (page 14, line 29 – page 15, line 2), wherein the general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from the postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamps (page 29, lines 5-14), wherein the postage storage device comprises a disk coupled to a host processor based system (figure 1B and page 15, line 25- page 16 line 5).

According to claim 15, a system for printing postage comprises a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon (page 5, lines 7-10 and figure 1A); a general purpose printer coupled to the general purpose processor based system (figure 1A); a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon (page 5, lines 24-28, page 35 lines 13-15, and figure 16A), wherein the postage printing application controls the general purpose processor based system and the general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on the sheet (page 29, lines 5-14); a postage storage device coupled to the general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein (page 14, line 29 – page 15, line 2),

wherein the general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from the postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamps (page 29, lines 5-14), wherein the postage storage device comprises a smart card (figure 1B and page 16 lines 6-10).

According to claim 16, a system for printing postage comprises a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon (page 5, lines 7-10 and figure 1A); a general purpose printer coupled to the general purpose processor based system (figure 1A); a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon (page 5, lines 24-28, page 35 lines 13-15, and figure 16A), wherein the postage printing application controls the general purpose processor based system and the general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on the sheet (page 29, lines 5-14); a postage storage device coupled to the general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein (page 14, line 29 – page 15, line 2), wherein the general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from the postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of the plurality of postage meter stamps (page 29, lines 5-14), wherein the postage storage device comprises a plurality of devices each storing an amount of postage value credit (figure 1B).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

First Ground – Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 14, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Second Ground – Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,010,156 to Block (hereinafter “*Block*”).

No Grounds – Claims 9, 10, 13, and 17-19 are indicated as rejected in the Office Action Summary; however, the Detailed Action gives no grounds for rejection.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 14, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Office Action,

page 2. The Examiner stated that claims 7, 11, 14, 15, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Office Action, page 4. Appellant notes that the subject matter of the claims need not be described literally (i.e., using the same terms) in order for the disclosure to satisfy the description requirement, see M.P.E.P. § 2163.02. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully asserts the claims meet the written description requirement.

Claims 1, 7, 11, 14, 15, and 16 recite “substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet” The Examiner states the phrase “substantially simultaneously” is not supported by the specification. Office Action, page 2. However, the claims’ limitation is described in the specification in such a way as to show the inventor had possession of the invention at the time it was filed. For example, page 6, lines 4-6 disclose a document, an associated return document, and postage stamps to mail *both* documents being printed during one pass across a blank writing medium. In another example, page 13, lines 1-10 of the specification explains printed label 1801 may include two postage indicia, one outbound and one inbound, and be “kiss cut” in order to provide for the printing of two indicia on the same label. In yet another example, page 13, line 14 – page 14, line 4 disclose a single document on which a plurality of postage meter stamps are printed in a single printing operation as shown in FIGURE 21. Accordingly, because the specification discloses a plurality of postage stamps being printed in a single printing operation, the claims reciting “substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps” are supported by the specification, and Appellant requests the rejections be reversed.

Claim 3 recites “stamps includes a date by which an item bearing said postage meter stamp must be posted.” The Examiner argues the limitation is not supported by the specification. Office Action, page 2. However, page 14, lines 11-13 of the specification describes a postage indicia including information such as “a date on or before which the item must be posted in order for the indicia to be considered valid.” Accordingly, because claim 3 is supported by the specification, Appellant requests the rejection of claim 3 be reversed.

Claim 4 recites “stamps includes a location from which an item bearing said postage meter is to be posted.” The Examiner argues the limitation is not supported by the specification. Office Action, pages 2-3. However, page 14, lines 11-16 of the specification

describe a postage indicia including information such as “the location from which the return mail is to be sent in order for the indicia to be considered valid.” Accordingly, because claim 4 is supported by the specification, Appellant requests the rejection of claim 4 be reversed.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). It is well settled that to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of the claim, see M.P.E.P. § 2131. Moreover, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, “[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim,” see M.P.E.P. § 2131, citing *In re Bond*, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Furthermore, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim,” see M.P.E.P. § 2131, citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections do not satisfy one or more of these requirements, as detailed below.

Claim 1 recites “*substantially simultaneously* printing a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet” (emphasis added). The Office Action fails to cite any art as teaching this limitation. Office Action, page 3. Accordingly, because each and every element of a claim must be taught in order for a reference to be anticipatory and the Examiner failed to cite any part of *Block* as teaching this limitation, the Examiner failed to make a prima facie case of anticipation against claim 1.

Moreover, in contrast to the recited substantially *simultaneous* printing of meter stamps, *Block* teaches printing labels *consecutively*. For example, *Block* expressly teaches that “following printing of the integrated field of labels for the item to be mailed, the labels are separated and applied to the item...” Col. 5, lines 22-31. Accordingly, *Block* teaches that address, weight, and class data are provided to the computer for processing, and that the data is then sent to the printer which prints a stamp and address labels associated with a single item to be mailed. Col. 5, line 33 - col. 6, line 12, and FIGURE 4. Thereafter, the stamp and address labels are separated and applied to that item. Col. 5, lines 23-24. If the user wishes to mail additional packages, the foregoing steps are repeated, thereby clearly and expressly setting forth consecutive label printing requiring sufficient temporal delay thereby precluding

an interpretation of substantially simultaneous label printing. As a result, *Block* does not teach this limitation of claim 1.

Moreover, it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify *Block* in order to meet the limitations of claim 1 because to make such a modification *Block* would require substantial and unsuggested modification. Specifically, *Block*'s invention is intended to prevent affixing the wrong label to the wrong package; therefore, *Block* teaches printing and affixing sheet 301 before printing a subsequent sheet. Col. 3, lines 42-45. Applicant therefore asserts that *Block* teaches away from *simultaneously* printing a plurality of meter stamps. As it is improper to modify a reference for an assertion of obviousness where the reference teaches away from the proposed modification, Applicant further asserts that claim 1 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of *Block*. M.P.E.P. § 2145.X.D.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites "said postage storage device comprises an expansion card coupled to a host processor based system." The Examiner cites column 4, lines 30-42 as teaching this limitation. Office Action, page 4. However, the cited lines simply discuss maintaining an account balance for the user and do not teach an expansion card coupled to a host processor based system. Moreover, a complete review of *Block* reveals no discussion of an expansion card at all. Accordingly, *Block* does not teach "said postage storage device comprises an expansion card coupled to a host processor based system."

Further still, claim 1 recites, "a general purpose printer" The Office Action cites perforated strips 214 as teaching this limitation. However, Appellant respectfully submits that perforated strips 214 do not teach a general purpose printer. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established.

As a result, *Block* fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 1, and Appellant requests the Board reverse the rejection of record. Further, claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and inherit the limitations therein. Therefore, at least for the reasons set forth above, claims 2-6 are not anticipated by *Block*, and Appellant requests that the review panel reverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections of record for claims 2-6.

Furthermore, claim 3 recites "wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a date by which an item bearing said postage meter stamp must be posted." The

Office Action argues “Block (‘156) further discloses a first postage meter stamp includes a date, see figure [3]A (317).” Office Action, page 4. However, figure 3A (317) simply shows a date without teaching to what the date refers. The shown date may indicate the date of printing, the date of expiration, or any other date. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As shown, Block fails to teach certain elements of claim 3. Specifically, Block does not teach “postage meter stamps includes a date by which an item bearing said postage meter stamp must be posted.” Therefore, Block fails to anticipate claim 3, and Appellant requests the Board overrule the rejection of record.

Moreover, claim 4 recites “wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a location from which an item bearing said postage meter stamp is to be posted.” The Office Action cites figure 3A (317) as teaching this limitation. Office Action, page 4. However, the cited figure fails to teach this limitation. Instead, item 317 simply includes a city, state, and zip code. Block does not teach whether this location is the location of the meter device, the location of the local post office, or the hometown of the user. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As shown, Block fails to teach certain elements of claim 3. Specifically, Block fails to disclose “wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a location from which an item bearing said postage meter stamp is to be posted.” Therefore, Block fails to anticipate claim 4, and the Appellant requests that the Board over rule the rejection of record.

Further still, claim 5 recites “wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a sender’s ZIP code.” The Office Action cites figure 3A (317) as teaching this claim. Office Action, page 4. However, figure 3A fails to disclose claim 5. Item 317 includes a zip code; yet, Block fails to teach the source of the zip code. Block’s zip code may indicate the meter’s zip code, the owner’s zip code, or any number of other zip codes. Block

simply does not indicate the source of the shown zip code. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). As shown, Block fails to teach certain elements of claim 3. Specifically, Block 3A fails to teach "wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a sender's ZIP code." Therefore, Block does not anticipate claim 5, and Appellants request that the Board over rule the rejection of record.

C. Claims 9, 10, 13, and 17-19

Claims 9, 10, 13 and 17-19 are indicated as rejected on the Office Action Summary; however, the Examiner failed to detail the grounds for the claims' rejections. M.P.E.P. 707.07(d) states "[w]here a claim is refused for any reason relating to the merits thereof it should be "rejected" and the ground of rejection fully and clearly stated, and the word "reject" must be used. The examiner should designate the *statutory basis* for any ground of rejection by express reference to a section of 35 U.S.C. in the opening sentence of each ground of rejection." Accordingly, as the Examiner has failed to fully and clearly state the grounds for rejecting claims 9,10, 13, and 17-19, the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie showing of anticipation.

Further, Claims 9, 10, 13, and 17-19 depend from claim 1 and inherit the limitations therein. Therefore, at least for the reasons set forth above, claims 9, 10, 13, and 17-19 are not anticipated by *Block* and do not violate 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Thus, Appellant requests that the Board reverse the undisclosed rejections of claims 9, 10, 13 and 17-19.

VIII. CLAIMS

A copy of the claims involved in the present appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A. As indicated above, the claims in Appendix A include the non-amended claims presented in the response filed by Applicant on August 9, 2006.

IX. EVIDENCE

No evidence pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or entered by or relied upon by the examiner is being submitted. Therefore, no evidence is attached hereto as Appendix B.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS

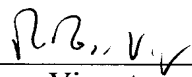
No related proceedings are referenced in II. above, hence copies of decisions in related proceedings are not provided in Appendix C.

XI. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes a fee in the amount of \$500.00 is due with this response, and this fee will be paid by credit card during electronic filing. However, if any additional fee or overpayment has been made, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 061135/P004CP1CP1C1/10106025 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

Claims Involved in the Appeal of Application Serial No. 09/491,949

1. (Previously Presented) A system for printing postage comprising:
a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon;
a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor based system;
a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon, wherein said postage printing application controls said general purpose processor based system and said general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet;
and
a postage storage device coupled to said general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein, wherein said general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from said postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps, wherein said postage storage device comprises an expansion card coupled to a host processor based system.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein a first postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a first transfer section of said plurality of transfer sections and a second postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a second transfer section of said plurality of transfer sections.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a date by which an item bearing said postage meter stamp must be posted.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a location from which an item bearing said postage meter stamp is to be posted.
5. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a sender's ZIP code.

6. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a recipient's ZIP code.

7. (Previously Presented) A system for printing postage comprising:
a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon;
a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor based system; and
a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon, wherein said postage printing application controls said general purpose processor based system and said general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet, wherein a first postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a first transfer section of said plurality of transfer sections and a second postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed on a second transfer section of said plurality of transfer sections, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes an expiration date of a postage storage device.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said postage meter stamps includes a unique identification of said postage storage device.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said unique identification of said postage storage device is a serial number.

11. (Previously Presented) A system for printing postage comprising:
a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon;
a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor based system;
a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon, wherein said postage printing application controls said general purpose processor based system and said general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet;
and
a postage storage device coupled to said general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein, wherein said general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from said postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps, wherein said postage storage device comprises a touch memory utility button.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said expansion card is a PCMCIA card.

14. (Previously Presented) A system for printing postage comprising:
a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon;
a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor based system;
a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon, wherein said postage printing application controls said general purpose processor based system and said general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet;
and
a postage storage device coupled to said general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein, wherein said general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from said postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps, wherein said postage storage device comprises a disk coupled to a host processor based system.

15. (Previously Presented) A system for printing postage comprising:
a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon;
a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor based system;
a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon, wherein said postage printing application controls said general purpose processor based system and said general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet;
a postage storage device coupled to said general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein, wherein said general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from said postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps, wherein said postage storage device comprises a smart card.

16. (Previously Presented) A system for printing postage comprising:
a general purpose processor based system having a postage printing application program operable thereon;
a general purpose printer coupled to said general purpose processor based system;
a sheet having a plurality of transfer sections thereon, wherein said postage printing application controls said general purpose processor based system and said general purpose printer to substantially simultaneously print a plurality of postage meter stamps on said sheet;
a postage storage device coupled to said general purpose processor based system having postage value credit stored therein, wherein said general purpose processor based system retrieves an amount of postage from said postage storage device for printing as a postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps, wherein said postage storage device comprises a plurality of devices each storing an amount of postage value credit.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein each postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps includes a graphical security interface.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said graphical security interface is a two dimensional bar code.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one postage meter stamp of said plurality of postage meter stamps is printed independent of the creation of a mail piece to be posted using said at least one postage meter stamp.

Claims 20-36 (Canceled)

APPENDIX B

No evidence pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or entered by or relied upon by the examiner is being submitted.

APPENDIX C

No related proceedings are referenced in II. above, hence copies of decisions in related proceedings are not provided.